

REMARKS

This application was examined with claims 24 through 41. Claims 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, 35, 36, 37 and 41 are amended. No claims are cancelled. No claims are allowed. Claims 24 through 41 remain in the application.

Applicants request reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified application in view of the amendments made to the specification and claims. The following remarks state Applicants' bases for making this request and are organized according to the Examiner's Action by paragraph number.

Examiner's Action, Paragraph 2

The Examiner objects to claims 24, 29, 30, 35, 36 and 41 for various informalities. Applicants are amending the claims to incorporate the requested changes. Although, Applicants have amended claim 41 to clarify the language, Applicants believe that the Examiner's objection to claim 41 may not be relevant.

Examiner's Action, Paragraphs 3 and 4

The Examiner rejects claims 24, 30 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants have made the requested changes to overcome this rejection.

Examiner's Action, Paragraphs 5 and 6

The Examiner rejects claims 24 through 41 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,529,944 to

LeCrone and assigned to the same assignee as the present application.

Applicants are submitting a Declaration of Douglas LeCrone that Applicants consider an appropriate showing under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 stating that the invention defined in claims 24 through 41 was Applicants' independent invention and made prior to the filing date of the LeCrone patent.

Examiner's Action, Paragraph 7

The Examiner makes other prior art of reference for the purpose of showing the state of the art. Applicants submit that the invention as claimed is not disclosed or suggested by either of these references taken singly or in combination.

Summary

Applicants have amended the claims to incorporate the changes suggested by the Examiner with respect to various objections and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants further submit that the attached LeCrone Declaration overcomes the LeCrone patent as a reference. Therefore Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 24 through 41 as amended.

If there are any questions, we urge the Examiner to call us collect.

Respectfully Submitted,

/George A Herbster/

George A. Herbster
Reg. No. 24,002
40 Beach Street
Manchester, MA 01944